

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

Amended Claim 1 relates to a method of producing a malt alcohol beverage, comprising:

removing through adsorption at least a part of rough flavor components from malt, a malt alcohol beverage intermediate product, or the malt alcohol beverage with the aid of an adsorbent resin selected from the group consisting of a strongly basic anion-exchange resin, and a weakly basic anion-exchange resin;

wherein said adsorbent resin adsorbs hydrophobic components; and

wherein the rough flavor component is a causative substance for aging of flavor or a precursor thereof.

In contrast, Katzke et al (U.S. 6,001,406) fail to disclose or suggest the use of an adsorbent resin which adsorbs hydrophobic components.

The anion exchanger disclosed by Katzke et al is **hydrophilic** and cannot adsorb the hydrophobic components. See col. 3, lines 24-27 of Katzke et al: “The characteristic feature of the ion exchanger to be used is that it is a water-insoluble porous **hydrophilic** matrix to which ion exchanging groups are covalently bound.”

Even if hydrophobic polymers are used “it becomes imperative that the pore surfaces of the matrix have been hydrophilized...” (Katzke et al, col. 3, lines 56-60).

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1, 4-9, 11 and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Katzke et al and the rejection of Claim 8 as being obvious over Katzke et al are believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

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The rejection of Claims 1 and 4-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, is obviated by the amendment of Claim 1.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.


Respectfully submitted,

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